
DIGEST

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HB 367 Original

2018 Regular Session

Pierre

Abstract: Provides for certain academic requirements relative to foreign language proficiency to receive a State Seal of Biliteracy affixed on the diploma or transcript of a high school graduate.

Present law provides for a State Seal of Biliteracy to be affixed on the high school diploma or transcript of a graduate who is proficient in multiple languages.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that in order to qualify for such a seal, a student must demonstrate proficiency in at least one language other than English. Proposed law specifies that this proficiency be at the intermediate-high level or above.

Present law provides for methods through which a student shall demonstrate such proficiency; requires that he meet one of the following indicators of proficiency. Proposed law revises these methods as follows:

- (1) Present law requires passing a world language Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate exam; specifies a passing score for each. Proposed law instead requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to determine the score, in consultation with the exam provider, that is indicative of proficiency. Present law also allows school systems to use an equivalent summative test as approved by the state supt. of education for languages in which an AP test is not available. Proposed law deletes this option.
- (2) Present law requires completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language or at least seven Carnegie units in language or content courses in a world language immersion setting. Proposed law relative to the immersion setting option, reduces the minimum number of Carnegie units from seven to four and eliminates language course in counting such units.
- (3) Present law requires passing a foreign government's approved language proficiency exam and receiving a certificate of competency from the authorizing government agency at the European B2 level, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Advanced Low level, or equivalent measures. Proposed law requires meeting the European B2 level standard.

- (4) Proposed law adds as a method of demonstration of proficiency passing a nationally recognized world language proficiency examination with a score determined by the state DOE, in consultation with the examination provider, to be indicative of language proficiency.

Present law provides that if the primary language of a student in grades 9-12 is not English, to earn the seal, he must both meet one of the above present law requirements and attain the Early Advanced Proficiency level on the English Language Development Assessment. Proposed law modifies the English language portion of the requirement; requires a composite score of proficient on an English language development assessment that addresses all modes of communication.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.4(D)(1)(c) and (2)(a))